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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR AC/CB, NP/CBM, VC/CCB, L/ACV, IO/S
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TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [CWC](#)

SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC): WEEKLY WRAP-UP
FOR 6 AUGUST 2004

This is CWC-91-04.

Summary

[11.](#) (U) A recent trip by the Director General proved uneventful and produced little or nothing in terms of substantive results - an outcome considered very successful by the DG. The OPCW Chief of Cabinet Raphael Grossi expounded on a number of personnel issues, most notably appealing for a solid US candidate for the position of Head of Industrial Verification, to replace the outgoing Don Clagett - an appeal seconded a few days later by Deputy Director General Brian Hawtin.

[12.](#) (U) While the Libyan initiative for a technical change to permit the conversion of Rabta has largely fallen prey to the summer doldrums in The Hague, planning and lobbying by the delegation continues and the prospects for approval appear as sound as at any point so far. France's position may/may be softening, and the delegation is making an active effort to identify potential problem delegations in advance of EC-38 with an eye to initiating a dialogue with those who may not be fully supportive. Thus far only Pakistan has indicated they have a significant problem, though India will require further attention in the coming weeks, as the signals from them to date leave it unclear whether they have or will cause significant problems.

[13.](#) (U) The effort by the delegation to begin establishing a relationship with personnel at the Iraqi Embassy has been placed on temporary hold, at the request of the Iraqis pending the arrival of their new Ambassador in September.

Grossi on DG's Trip to Tehran

[14.](#) (U) On Tuesday, 27 June Deloff met with OPCW Chief of Cabinet Raphael Grossi to discuss a range of issues, including his understanding of the state of play with Libya's request for a technical amendment.

[15.](#) (U) The conversation began with a debrief by Grossi of the Director General's (DG) recent trip to Iran. During an earlier conversation, Grossi indicated that the Iranians had pressed the DG quite insistently to come to Tehran for a visit. Reluctant but unable to decline without giving offense, the DG agreed to a whirlwind trip in which he arrived late on a Friday night, engaged in two meetings on Saturday, and departed on Sunday. The overriding concern by the DG was the prospect of a media circus, which, in the event, did not materialize.

[16.](#) (U) Grossi's description of both meetings was that they were pro forma and largely non-substantive. Iranian hosts said nothing provocative except the obligatory comments, in response to the DG's admonitions about promoting universality in the region, that Israel continues to be the obstruction.

Grossi on Personnel Issues

[17.](#) (U) On the subject of OPCW consultants, it was clear Grossi had arrived at the meeting with the objective of defending the DG's apparent decision to extend the contract of South Korean consultant Chong. Chong has been working on the issue of promoting universality on the Korean peninsula for approximately one and one half years, and it appears he will continue for the foreseeable future. The DG recently returned from a trip to Seoul where it became clear to him, according to Grossi, that Chong was wired in at very senior levels of the Korean government. This placement, along with the important objective of eventually gaining North Korea's

accession to the Convention, warranted Chong's further retention. It is the DG's view that Chong is definitely adding value (Note: Deloff viewed this as an effort to justify a political decision taken by the DG. Chong's contributions to the organization have been questionable since he began his work. He appears to be extremely conscientious and industrious, but the portfolio he has been assigned makes it far from clear, and indeed Grossi offered no substantive evidence, that anything substantive is being done and that Chong therefore "continues" to add value.) The consultants retained to work on universality in Latin America and on optimization of verification at demilitarization facilities, will not have their contracts renewed. To emphasize, French consultant Gregoire Diamantides will return to the OPCW for a few weeks to finalize his report on optimization in Russia, and will then end his tenure at the OPCW. Grossi accented these non-renewals apparently to bolster the case for the decision to retain Chong.

18. (U) Grossi availed himself of the opportunity to do some repair work after the discord created when delegates were informed during the course of budget discussions that Chong's work was classified and very sensitive and that they could therefore not be briefed about it, as they had requested. Grossi allowed that this had clearly been the wrong answer, and that it would be rectified. Chong would, in fact, provide the requisite briefing when the issue came up again, presumably during the next round of budget discussions.

19. (U) Continuing with personnel issues, Grossi lamented the loss of the American head of industry inspections, Don Claggett to the tenure policy. He appealed once again for a strong US candidate and noted that UK had proposed Steve Wade as a national candidate and is apparently pressing the DG quite hard for Wade's acceptance. Deloff assured him the US was searching diligently for a solid candidate and that in fact a few extremely good ones had been identified. The remaining question was whether the individuals in question were interested. In any case, we would continue to work to get an applicant(s) in front of them to consider. A few days later, delegation received the same appeal from Deputy Director General Brian Hawtin, who noted the closeout of the extended date for candidates was October 25th and, therefore, time was of the essence.

110. (U) In a somewhat strange turn of the conversation, Grossi expounded at length the virtues of acting Head of the Inspection Directorate Jose Carvalho. He particularly highlighted the sense of allegiance and cooperation Carvalho had shown during implementation of the tenure policy, in sharp contrast to some other senior staff members, notably Horst Reeps. Carvalho had shown no resistance to carrying out the staff turnovers demanded by the tenure decision and had carried out the process in a very professional and reasoned manner. Further singing his praises, Grossi noted that when he had been informed of the recent decision to hire Japanese incumbent Akiyama to head the Inspection Directorate, and the attendant removal of Carvalho as acting head, Carvalho's response had been to express gratitude for the opportunity to fill the position for the time he had been given.

Rabta

111. (SBU) In a brief exchange regarding the Libyans' request for a technical change, Grossi confided (please closely protect) that in a conversation with French delegate Sophie Moal-Makame, she informed him that he "should be optimistic" about the fate of the request. There would be problems along the way, but eventually a "good outcome". Grossi had taken this to mean the France would, in the event, come around. Grossi also said that in conversations with the Chinese delegation, it seemed clear that China would not cause any trouble on this issue. He did not expect the Indians to be a problem either, but said they might look for some kind of language to the effect that the decision "does not set a precedent", though it was not clear what precedent it wouldn't set.

112. (U) Delegation also attempted contact with the Indians to discuss their views on Rabta, but was unable due to the Summer holiday season. Delegation will attempt to schedule the meeting later in August when the Indian delegate responsible for the issue will have returned.

113. (U) At delegation's request, Ambassador Javits contacted Pakistani Ambassador Kazi to gauge Pakistan's likely response to the Libyan proposed technical change. In an unexpected turn, Kazi expressed extreme dislike for Libyans and agitation that Libya had not bothered to approach Pakistan to discuss the initiative. Kazi referred to unspecified "raw wounds" between Libya and Pakistan as the basis for his dislike and indicated that an effort would have to be made to overcome that baggage. More substantively, Pakistan had no

problem with the principle of converting Rabta but they may have problems with the mechanism of a technical change. The change being sought may require an Amendment Conference. Delegation intends to follow up with the Pakistan delegation to gain a clearer view of their position and to suggest to Libya that they make a clear political effort to engage Pakistan.

¶14. (U) During a discussion in the delegate's lounge at the OPCW, deloff overheard half of a phone conversation between the Director of Chemical Demilitarization Jerzy Mazur, and German Ambassador Alexander Olbrich. The thrust of the conversation was that Olbrich was attempting to gain some background and understanding about the status of equipment at Rabta, specifically whether it had been "secured" by the TS. In addition, Olbrich was trying to determine whether the TS considered it appropriate for Germany to send a team to Libya to examine the CW facilities there. Mazur assured him the equipment was under OPCW tags and seals and that the question of a trip to Libya was between Libya and Germany. There was nothing Mazur knew of from a Convention standpoint that prevented it. Delegation believes it is likely that Germany is or will be in the near future, planning such a trip.

Iraq

¶15. (U) At Washington's prompting, delegation began pursuing a dialogue with the Iraqi Embassy here in The Hague to establish lines of communication, establish relationships, and to identify who locally would be working OPCW issues. In preparation, delegation discussed the issue with the UK delegation which, in turn, contacted the Iraqis. While very engaging, the Iraqi Embassy personnel UK spoke with indicated they are in the midst of rotating in a new Ambassador and until he or she arrived they did not want to engage on such issues, even superficially. They anticipated having their new Ambassador in place in September, and delegation will renew the initiative with them shortly thereafter.

Pine Bluff DG Verification Plan

¶16. (U) In a series of discussions, delegation sought to clarify with TS personnel the nature of the concern that drove the TS to include certain items of equipment in Table 2 of its draft Verification Plan for the Pine Bluff Arsenal DF Production Facility. TS concerns were related to its practical ability to confirm the destruction of these items of equipment, specifically to have adequate "before" and "after" photographs of the equipment upon which to make a sound determination of their destruction. In the course of the discussions, delegation and TS were able to agree that photographs taken of this equipment under the regimen for "standard, various" equipment would in fact provide the necessary tools to confirm destruction, and the TS removed the contentious items of equipment from Table 2.

Article VII Meetings

¶17. (U) Del met with Art. VII facilitator (Matthews, UK), Trapp and Bauta (TS) on 28 July to exchange information regarding bilateral assistance activities pursuant to the Art. VII Action Plan. As directed, del provided copies of the US Demarche Status 2004 noting that the copies are not intended for public dissemination. Other than reviewing outstanding requests for assistance listed on the status report, very little new information was exchanged. The TS continues to push States Parties to provide specific requests for assistance and indicated they would circulate an updated table with more detailed information regarding requests received. The TS (Bauta) again, asked the del whether the US could provide a web-developer on a cost-free basis to assist the TS to get the Art. VII/National Authorities collaboration website online. The TS also inquired whether the US was willing to provide cash, in terms of voluntary contributions, to States Parties to assist in national implementation. Del informed the TS that, while no options are off the table, US offers of assistance would need to be tied to specific requests and specific, monitorable, results. Del continued that, at this point in time, the US continues to focus its assistance efforts towards information assistance via bilateral visits, exchanges and training with national authority personnel or with the TS rather than through voluntary monetary contributions.

¶18. (U) On 29 July, the facilitator held consultations on the implementation status of the Article VII Action Plan. Discussions were sparsely attended, netting primarily the WEOG and Asian States Parties extending offers of assistance. Discussions were also largely one-way. The bulk of discussions were the TS informed dels of increased

transparency measures planned relative to their efforts to match donors and recipients. In particular, the facilitator indicated he would be conducting bilateral exchanges, like those conducted on 28 July, with donor countries four times before CSP 10. The facilitator will set dates for the next round of bilats tentatively in September. As a follow-on to the successful Universality Action Plan discussions held recently in Brussels, the TS (Trapp) also reviewed the planned London Art. VII consultations set for 1 Sept. to discuss Art. VII implementation with delegations not resident in The Hague but present in Brussels. The TS also reviewed, in general terms, the types of potential assistance donor countries offered during bilateral discussions with the facilitator and the TS on 28 July (TS talking points faxed back to AC/CB). Del requested the TS to consider circulating a more detailed, comprehensive, list of requests received to facilitate offers of assistance. Del noted that offers of specific assistance are difficult to obtain in capitols without specific justification. The TS noted they would compile and circulate a more informative list of requests received. In closing, the facilitator reviewed that the next round of Art. VII consultations would be scheduled the week of 12 Sept to coincide with the Industry Intersessionals.

ICA Bilat

19. (U) TS reps Davahle and Kisslev (ICA) requested to meet with del on 4 Aug to discuss Art. VII ICA assistance activities. Specifically, ICA requested U.S. assistance in encouraging African countries to submit applications to attend the Second Regional Meeting of National Authorities scheduled for 19 and 20 Oct 2004 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Davahle indicated that no countries have signed up to attend this meeting and the closing date, 17 Aug, is rapidly approaching. Davahle indicated the TS can support 20-25 participants to this event. Second, ICA requests that the U.S. apply "political" pressure to four countries the TS considers close to adopting national legislation in the Pacific Rim: Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau and Kiribati. The TS is approaching the U.S., Australia and New Zealand in requesting to approach these countries to help push along legislation adoption efforts. In each case, the TS understands that the draft legislation is complete, has been reviewed by the TS, but that the domestic drafters have informed the TS that there is a lack of legislative interest in movement on the text. The TS provided specific points of contact in each of the countries for reference (faxed back to AC/CB 5 Aug 2004). Third, the TS requested U.S. assistance in generating a 2-3 page outreach paper designed to inform States Parties on how to assemble a National Authority, using lessons learned from the U.S. experience. ICA views this document as helpful in identifying for States Parties lacking National Authorities the necessary skill sets, personnel and interagency coordination procedures necessary to establish a functional National Authority. Fourth, ICA, again, requested U.S. assistance, via a cost-free expert, to establish an online Art. VII and National Authority coordination website.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

20. (U) There are currently no official meetings schedule for the duration of the month of August.

21. (U) To facilitate advance notification of scheduled meetings and consultations, del is working to establish an AC/CB link to the del's internal electronic calendar on the OpenNet. This electronic calendar contains the time/date for upcoming del events, attendee(s), and del notes regarding the event and includes links to electronic documents, if available.

22. (U) Kellogg sends.
RUSSEL